The Arab Israeli Conflict

**Objectives**

* Determine the common elements of disputes and the challenges in resolving them
* Identify the key factors in the Middle East crisis
* Analyze past peace plans for resolving Arab/Israeli crisis
* Use researched information to prepare an outline that will allow you participate in a Socratic Seminar

**Introduction**

The state of Palestine was divided in 1947 to establish the nation of Israel, resulting in two separate homelands for the Arab and Jewish people. This land division has polarized Arabs and Israelis for over 50 years, resulting in ongoing violent conflicts. In this lesson you will examine the root causes of the crisis and analyze past and present attempts at peace.

**Instructions**

1. Log on to this website-<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/middle_east/conflict/index.html>
2. Use this web site to conduct research to help you build an understanding of the ongoing conflict between Arabs and Israelis in Palestine.
3. Use only this website for your research.
4. Pay close attention to the sections tabbed-
   1. Map
   2. Peace efforts
   3. Key players
   4. Archives

Use the information you investigate to build the foundation for your participation in a Socratic seminar. Remember your participation will be a direct reflection of the research conducted in this exercise. In short, you will only be as good as your research allows you to be.

Consider the typical causes of disputes, who are involved with them, what prolongs them and how they are resolved. Ask: What seem to be the key ingredients in resolving disputes? What has to occur between/among the involved parties in order for a dispute to end?

**Remember-** The ongoing conflict between Arabs and Israelis is based on a land dispute that began after the birth of Israel, the nation that evolved out of the division of Palestine in 1947.

**Use the following discussion questions as guidelines for your research**

When did the Arab-Israeli crisis begin?

What is at the core of the ongoing conflict between the Arabs and Israelis?

Which areas of land are in dispute? Based on your research, whom do you view as the rightful owners of the land in question? Explain.

What are the basic arguments each group has regarding resolving the conflict? What concessions does each side expect of the other?

Why have efforts to resolve the conflict and establish peace failed?

In your opinion, particularly based on recent acts of violence in the Middle East, do you feel the conflict can be resolved? Explain

Review the pros and cons of the many different peace plans, taking into consideration Arab and

Israeli perspectives. What do the plans all share? What are the main differences?

**Assessment**

You will be assessed on Monday during the Socratic seminar. You will be assessed on the level and quality of your participation.